

Application No.: 09/836,625

Docket No.: 263742000201

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following list of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application:

## List of Claims:

Claims 1-42 (Cancelled)

Claim 43 (Withdrawn): A composition comprising substantially non-aggregated particulates in suspension and an amount of trehalose sufficient to prevent aggregation of the particulates upon freezing and thawing.

Claim 44 (Withdrawn): The composition according to claim 43, wherein the composition is frozen.

Claim 45 (Withdrawn): The composition according to claim 43, wherein the particulates are selected from the group consisting of colloidal gold, polystyrene latex and aluminum hydroxide.

Claim 46 (Withdrawn): The composition according to claim 43, comprising at least 10% (w/v) trehalose.

Claim 47 (Withdrawn): The composition according to claim 43, comprising at least 30% (w/v) trehalose.

Claim 48 (Currently Amended): A method of preventing aggregation during dehydration and rehydration of particulates in suspension comprising the steps of:

adding to a particulate suspension at least a final concentration between 10% and 50% (w/v) of trehalose sufficient to prevent aggregation upon rehydration; and

dehydrating the suspension.

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Claim 49 (Withdrawn): A method of preventing aggregation of particulates in suspension during freezing, comprising the steps of:

adding to the suspension an amount of trehalose sufficient to prevent aggregation during freezing; and

freezing the suspension.

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 48, wherein the particulates are selected from the group consisting of colloidal gold and polystyrene latex.

Claim 51 (Cancelled)

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 48, wherein the amount of trehalose is at least 30% (w/v).

Claim 53 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 48, wherein the particulate is aluminum hydroxide and the amount of trehalose is at least 15% (w/v).

Claim 54 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 53, wherein the amount of trehalose is at least 30% (w/v).